



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

July 15, 2008

A public meeting of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Wayne Tall at 5:34 PM, Tuesday, June 24, 2008 in the Community Center Conference Room located at 13001 N. La Montana, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

Call to Order – Roll Call: Present at roll call were the following members of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission: Chair Wayne Tall, Commissioners Bill Myers, Steve Fleming, Bob Sanders, and Elena Torre. Vice-Chair Wendell Oliphant was absent. Staff members present were Director Mark Mayer, and Susan Gill, Recording Secretary.

Stand for Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No public response.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 24, 2008 REGULAR MEETING – ACTION ITEM

Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the Minutes, Commissioner Fleming seconded, the motion was made and carried 5:0 to approve the June 24, 2008 minutes as submitted.

AGENDA ITEM #3: UPDATE ON HIKING LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH MCO

After some general discussion of the Hiking Agreement, Director Mayer agreed to contact the Town Attorney, Andrew McGuire and request a Second Amendment to the Hiking Agreement with MCO that will expire on October 31, 2008. The original Hiking Agreement, which was completed in 2004 and expired in 2005, was extended with the completion of the First Amendment to the Hiking Agreement an additional three years to 2008. Director Mayer will request an additional three years to the Hiking Agreement which would extend it until 2011. Director Mayer advised that the Amendment to the Hiking Agreement would probably have to be sent to Texas for review by MCO's Legal Department prior to a potential Council date in September for approval.

Several Commissioners had questions regarding two recent requests by Roy Kinsey of the Sonoran Conservancy:

1. Request to change the format under which "guided" hikes are conducted across MCO land to the Preserve.
2. Request to conduct a race to the Preserve.

A discussion of these requests will be added to the agenda for the regularly scheduled August 19 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: UPDATE ON CHEMICAL TOILETS

Commissioner Torre provided a handout and gave a brief overview of her research with regard to chemical toilets which included the following information:

- Chemicals used are reputed to be environmentally friendly.
- Toilets depending on capacity and model must be regularly maintained and cleaned.
- Cost for toilet and chemicals varies from approximately \$100 to \$200 (does not include a housing structure).
- Composting toilets utilize:
 - A composting chamber which breaks down and sanitizes the sewage.
 - A drying chamber or tray which permits moisture to escape, reducing the sewage volume.

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2008

- There are three types of composting toilets available and all types provide a final product of compost which can be added to the soil:
 - Automatic
 - Semi-automatic
 - Manual
- The cost per unit varies depending if it requires electricity.

A brief discussion followed regarding cost of maintaining the toilets, placement locations; including whether there should be permanent or temporary placement, possibility of vandalism issues, and the number of toilets required for a children's hike. A request was made for Director Mayer to check with MCO regarding their ideas on placement of a chemical toilet and the utilization of a pumping truck to service and maintain the toilets.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UPDATE ON OWNERSHIP OF LAND (WEST OF TOWN LIMITS)

The question of who owns the land west of the Preserve and questions regarding Environmental Easements and a "Growing Smarter Arizona" grant were briefly discussed. Commissioner Myers agreed to make some inquiries and report back to the Commission at the August 19, 2008 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #6: PRESENTATION BY SONORAN CONSERVANCY

Roy Kinsey gave a brief overview on the following:

- Sonoran Conservancy Programs for Fall 2008
 - Training programs for Trailblazers, Stewards, and Guides
 - Hiking Schedule for guided hikes:
 - ✓ October 12, 18, 22, 26
 - ✓ November 8, 16
 - ✓ December 6
 - Communications
 - ✓ Issue Newsletter #11
 - ✓ Reorganize Web site
 - Support Specific Requests or Resolutions issued by MMPC
 - Act to Support an Approval from County Parks and Recreation to Assist in Construction of New Trail between Fountain Hills Preserve and Dixie Mine Trail
- Trail Guide and Preserve Steward Training
 - Training for interested persons will be held on three consecutive weeks;
 - ✓ September 9, 16, and 23 at the Community Center from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.
 - ✓ Interested persons should submit the following information:
 - ✓ Name, phone number, and e-mail address and whether they are interested in guiding or in becoming a Steward.
 - Currently have eighteen (18) Trail Stewards, would like to have thirty (30).
- Sonoran Conservancy of Fountain Hills has a need for volunteers.

A brief discussion followed regarding the cost of a "Silent Ranger" (approximately \$800.00), a machine that can be installed at the Preserve entrance to take entry fees. Mr. Kinsey also suggested that the Preserve Master Plan be modified to include bicycles on the North Trail and the Promenade Trail. Director Mayer indicated that those changes had already been approved by Council.

Commissioner Myers requested information on build out at Eagles Nest including the total number of lots, what their annual sales have been, and when development of Adero Canyon would begin. This information will be provided to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Tall called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Myers moved to adjourn; Commissioner Fleming seconded, and the motion carried 5:0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for August 19 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall.

McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission

By: _____
Wayne Tall, Chair

Reviewed by: _____
Mark C. Mayer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by: _____
Susan Gill, Executive Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the McDowell Mountain Preservation Commission Regular Meeting held on July 15, 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

By: _____
Wayne Tall, Chair